Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A vacuum assisted wound closure device, comprising:

- a screen means for placement within a wound bed;
- a sealing means adhered over said screen means and wound bed;
- a vacuum source fluidically communicating with said screen means; and
- a <u>fluid compositional</u> sensing device interposed between said screen means and said vacuum source;

wherein the <u>fluid compositional</u> sensing device senses <u>compositional characteristics of</u> unfiltered wound fluid from the wound bed.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim I wherein said <u>fluid compositional</u> sensing device is comprised of <u>comprises</u> a gas chromatograph.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 2 wherein said gas-chromatograph is comprised of fluid compositional sensing device further comprises a photo diode operable in conjunction with said gas chromatograph and in optical proximity to fluids being drawn from the wound site towards said vacuum source.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 wherein said <u>fluid compositional</u> sensing device is comprised of a sensor array.

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Claim 5 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 further comprising a collection canister interposed between said screen means and said <u>fluid</u> compositional sensing device.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A vacuum assisted wound closure device, comprising:

- a screen means for placement within a wound bed;
- a sealing means adhered over said screen means and wound bed;
- a vacuum source fluidically communicating with said screen means;
- a collection canister interposed between said screen means and said vacuum
- source; and
- a <u>fluid compositional</u> sensing device for detecting infection;

wherein the <u>fluid compositional</u> sensing device senses <u>compositional characteristics of</u> unfiltered wound fluid from the wound bed, <u>said compositional characteristics indicative of said infection within the wound</u>.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 wherein said <u>fluid compositional</u> sensing device is embedded within said screen means.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 wherein said <u>fluid compositional</u> sensing device is disposed on said sealing means, such that said <u>fluid compositional</u> sensing device is in contact with said screen means.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 wherein said <u>fluid compositional</u> sensing device is disposed within said canister.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 further comprising a flexible conduit for communicating between said screen means and said vacuum source.